Amendments to the Specification:

Insertions are denoted by underlining and deletions are denoted by strikethrough.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 26-36 on page 7 with the following:

The recombinant bacterial cell which is provided according to this further ~~aspect~~ aspect of the present invention may contain at least one further recombinant, e.g. heterologous nucleic acid molecule encoding a peptide or polypeptide capable of eliciting an immune response in a mammal. Said further immunogenic peptide of polypeptide may be selected from Mycobacterium antigens or, in a wider sense, from autoantigens, tumor antigens, pathogen antigens and immunogenic fragments thereof. The nucleic acid molecule coding for the further peptide or polypeptide may be situated on the same vector as the fusion gene. However, it may, for example, also be situated on a different plasmid, independently of the fusion gene, or be chromosomally integrated.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 28-34 on page 9 with the following:

Fig. 1: shows the protective capacity of rBCG ureC Hly in the aerosol model of murine tuberculosis. BALB/c mice were immunized i.v. with $1X10^6$ CFU rBCG ureC Hly, BCG P ureC or native BCG"Pasteur". 120 days post vaccination animals were challenged with H37Rv (200 organism/lung) via aerosol. Bacterial load in infected organs (spleen and lung) was assessed 30, 60 and 90 days post challenge. Each ~~bar~~ line represents 10 animals.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 20-25 on page 10 with the following:

To obtain a urease-deficient mutant, Reyrat et al. constructed a suicide vector containing a ureC gene disrupted by a kanamycin marker (the aph gene). Two micrograms of this construct were linearized with Sac I and electroporated into *M. bovis* BCG. ~~Kanamycine~~ Kanamycin resistant transformants were screened for urease negative phenotype (cf. Reyrat et al., 1995).

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12 with the following:

Similar results were obtained after challenge with the clinical isolate *M. tuberculosis* Beijing. BALB/c mice were i.v. ~~immunised~~ immunized with rBCG ureC Hly, BCG-Hly or parental BCG and aerosol challenged at day 120 p.i. with *M. tuberculosis* Beijing. Vaccination with BCG ureC Hly induced an improved protection against *M. tuberculosis* Beijing already at early time points (day 30) and lasting for the entire period of observation until day 90 p.c. Compared to vaccination with parental BCG, vaccination with rBCG ureC Hly led to a reduction in the lung of 1 log CFU *M. tuberculosis* Beijing.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 12-20 on page 12 with the following:

Since mice are relatively resistant to *M. tuberculosis* infection guinea-pigs as a more susceptible animal model were used to test for vaccination capacity of rBCG ureC Hly. Guinea-pigs were subcutaneously ~~immunised~~ immunized with the respective mycobacterial vaccine strain, rBCG ureC Hly or parental BCG, and weight gain as well as CFU were monitored after aerosol challenge with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv. Guinea-pigs ~~immunised~~ immunized with rBCG ureC Hly showed similar weight gain than

animals vaccinated with the parental BCG strain up to day 120, whereas non-vaccinated animals clearly suffered from TB as indicated by the failure of body weight gain.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 22-25 on page 12 with the following:

Visual examination of lung and spleen prior to CFU analysis showed that tubercles on the surface of both organs from ~~BCG-immunised~~ BCG-immunized guinea pigs were much larger and more numerous than those from BCG ureC Hly- vaccinated animals.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13 with the following:

Further, the safety of BCG ureC Hly was tested in immunodeficient SCID mice. For this purpose, SCID mice were intravenously ~~innoculated~~ inoculated with 10^7-10^8 microorganisms of rBCG ureC Hly or the parental BCG strain. Whereas SCID mice ~~innoculated~~ inoculated with the parental strain ~~died~~ survived until day 25 p.i., mice ~~innoculated~~ inoculated with rBCG ureC Holy survived until day 150 p.i. (Fig. 3).